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1856

1856 Annual Minutes

Arkansas Baptist State Convention

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Fifty Years Ago

MINUTES

Baptist State Convention 185

INTRODUCTORY Sermon was preached by Eld. W. M. LEA, from Gal. 6th chap. and 9th verse, which reads: "And let us not be weary in well-doing; for in due season we shall reap if we faint not." And after a short recess, the Messengers and Delegates assembled in the meeting-house about 2 o'clock, P. M. And after singing a hymn and prayer by Eld. W. M. Lea, the President called for credentials and messengers, whereupon the following came forward:

ASSOCIATIONS.

LIBERTY, Jesse Hartwell, D. D., Eld. T. H. Compeer and Eld. L. Baldwin.

JUDSON, Eld. Aaron Yates, Eld. J. V. McCulluch, and Eld. W. M. Lea.

CHURCHES.

CAMDEN, Jesse Hartwell, D. D.

FRIENDSHIP, Eld. J. V. McCulluch, and George Oliver.

NEW HORN, Eld. Rucks, E. W. Russel and B. Bryant.

SAMARIA, D. C. Hall, J. J. Harris, and W. J. Rogers.

PRINCETON, Eld. R. J. Coleman, D. G. Stokes, James Ketchum and J. H. Brown.

PLEASANT GROVE, Eld. T. H. Compeer, and E. Livingston.

INDIVIDUAL CONTRIBUTORS, Eld. R. M. Thrasher, Wm. Daniel, R. W. Dickenson, E. L. Dickenson, W. Hall, J. L. Rogers, J. J. Curlin and James McCargo.

It was then agreed that the body go

into the election of its officers, which resulted in the choice of Jesse Hartwell, D. D., for President, and Eld. R. J. Coleman for Secretary.

After which the President proceeded to appoint the Committee on Preaching. Com.—Wm. Daniel, D. G. Stokes, pastor and Deacons of New Hope Church.

It was then resolved that we invite visiting brethren to seats with us, none accepted.

It was then resolved that the President proceed to appoint the following committees.

ON NOMINATIONS, Eld. R. M. Thrasher, D. C. Hall and Eld. L. Baldwin.

ON MINISTERIAL EDUCATION, T. H. Compeer, Eld. W. M. Lea, R. W. Dickenson, George Oliver, and by motion, the President was added.

ON COLORED POPULATION, Eld. W. M. Lea, J. J. Harris, and George Oliver.

ON AGENCIES, Eld. Aaron Yates, E. W. Russel, and James Ketchum.

ON TEMPERANCE, Eld. R. J. Coleman, J. J. Curlin and J. J. Harris.

ON DOMESTIC MISSIONS, Eld. J. V. McCulluch, Eld. T. H. Compeer, and Wm. Daniel.

ON FOREIGN MISSIONS, by suggestion, Jesse Hartwell, D. D., James Ketchum, J. J. Harris and Eld. W. M. Lea,

ON CIRCULATION OF BOOKS, Eld. L. Baldwin, D. G. Stokes, and Eld. R. J. Coleman.

ON FINANCE, Wm. Daniel, B. Bryant, and James McCargo.

COMMITTEE ON PREACHING then made their report as follows: At candle-lighting, Eld. J. V. McCulluch; at 3 o'clock, P. M., on Sabbath, Eld. L. Baldwin; at candle-lighting Sabbath night, Eld. W. M. Lea, which report was adopted.

It was then resolved that the Convention go into a Committee of the Whole on Monday morning at nine o'clock, to consider the propriety of a Denominational School of high character, and the publishing of a Denominational paper in the State; after which the President addressed the body on the objects of the Convention.

The Convention adjourned to meet Monday morning at $\frac{1}{2}$ past 8 o'clock; prayer by Bro. McCulluch.

SABBATH, Jesse Hartwell preached the Missionary Sermon, to a large and attentive congregation.

After which a public collection was taken up of 89 and 30cts. Eld. L. Baldwin preached to a large congregation at 3 o'clock, P. M.; and Eld. W. M. Lea, at candle-lighting, at which time there was a good deal of interest manifested, and several came forward for prayer.

MONDAY MORNING.—Convention met pursuant to adjournment. Prayer by Bro. McCulluch. Called the roll and read the minutes; then extended the invitation to visiting brethren, whereupon Eld. J. T. Craig and Jonathan McCargo came forward and took seats.

It was then agreed that we carry out the resolution of Saturday evening, viz: to go into a Committee of the Whole, to consider the propriety of a Denominational School and a Denominational paper in the State. The Committee organized by calling Eld.

A. Yates to the chair, and after some two hours deliberation, the Committee rose; and the Convention went into session. Then took a recess until 1 o'clock, P. M. Prayer by Bro. Craig.

1 O'CLOCK, P. M.

Convention met pursuant to adjournment. Prayer by Bro. Thresher. The President rose and stated to the Convention that he was unable to preside in consequence of indisposition of health, resigned the seat and absented himself, whereupon Eld. A. Yates was called to the chair. Convention then went into a committee of the whole in order to continue their deliberations on the Educational and Denominational paper enterprise. Committee rose at $\frac{1}{2}$ past 3 o'clock. Convention then went into session; after which the Committee of the whole reported the following: Resolved that we recommend that the Executive Board of this body, employ three agents to raise a Ministerial Educational Fund, by contributions and subscriptions; we further recommend, that said Agents also raise money, in like manner, to establish a Denominational Male School of High Character in the State, and that their first report be made to said Committee on the first Saturday in July next, which report was received and adopted. Convention then adjourned till 9 o'clock Tuesday morning. Prayer by Bro. Baldwin.

TUESDAY MORNING, 9 O'CLOCK.—Convention met pursuant to adjournment. Prayer by Bro. Daniel.

Then called for report on Nominations. It was read, received, and after being amended, was adopted, and Committee discharged. See Report No. 1.

The other reports were then called for in order, they were read and received, Committees discharged, and in lieu

of them, the following was adopted:

Inasmuch as the several Associations within the bounds of this Convention, have taken up the following objects: Home Missions, Temperance, Colored Population, Foreign Missions, Circulation of Books, and as they are likely to be carried out by these bodies,

Resolved, therefore, that we drop, for the present, those objects from our minutes, and as we have adopted a measure on Ministerial Education, Agencies, &c. *Resolved*, that we drop those reports also, and devote all our time and means to the last named objects, viz: Ministerial Education, a Denominational School, &c.

The report of the Executive Committee was then called for, read, received, adopted, and Committee discharged. See Report No. 2.

It was then agreed that we go into the selection of the place of holding the next session of this body, which resulted in the choice of Samaria, eight miles west of Princeton, Dallas county, on the Arkadelphia road.

The report of the Finance Committee was then called for, read, received, adopted, and Committee discharged.—See report No. 3.

It was then *Resolved*, That we recommend the Executive Committee to instruct their Agents to solicit subscriptions for a Denominational Newspaper, to be paid on the reception of the first number of the paper.

It was then *Resolved*, That we appoint a minister to preach a sermon on Ministerial Education at 11 o'clock, on Sabbath, at the next meeting of the Convention, whereupon Eld. D. Buckley received the appointment, and Eld. W. M. Lea, his alternate.

It was then *Resolved*, That Eld. P. S. G. Watson be, and is hereby, ap-

pointed to preach the Introductory Sermon at the next meeting of the Convention, at 11 o'clock on Saturday, and Eld. T. H. Compeer his alternate.

Resolved, That we tender our thanks to the brethren and community of New Hope Church, for the kind and hospitable manner in which they have entertained the Convention.

It was then *Resolved*, That the Secretary have eight hundred copies of the Minutes of this Convention printed and circulated as extensively as possible, and that he be allowed fifteen dollars for his services, also that he draw upon the Treasurer for the money to defray the expense of the same.

It was then *Resolved*, That we adjourn to meet with Samaria Church, on Saturday before the 1st Sabbath in October, 1857. Prayer by Eld. R. J. Coleman.

AARON YATES, *President*.

R. J. COLEMAN, *Sec'y*.

REPORT NO. 1

Committee on Nominations Report as follows:

EXECUTIVE BOARD.

DR. M. W. McCRAW, *President*; Princeton Post Office.

Gen. N. G. SMITH, *Tulip*. } *Vice-President*.
JOHN McCASO, *Princeton*, }

J. J. HARRIS, *Cor. Secretary*, Tulip Post office.

E. M. HARRIS, *Treasurer*, Tulip Post Office.

MANAGERS.

Wm Daniel,	Edmund Ruck,
D. C. Hall,	Tilman Brewster,
E. W. Russell,	T. H. Brown,
D. G. Stokes,	P. Watts,
George Oliver,	Jaman Ketchum,
T. G. Birdson,	Eld. Sol. Gardner,
Eld. ——— Vinson,	" R. Polley. Warren,

" P. S. G. Watson, Lagrange,

" G. W. Kennard, Batesville,

" J. M. Cox, Cotton Plant,

" J. Y. Lindsey, Benton

" H. H. Coleman, Arkadelphia,

" T. H. Compeer, Antioch,

" R. J. Coleman, Princeton,

" Miles Langley, Arkadelphia,

" W. M. Lea, Pine Bluff,

" D. Buckley, Little Rock,

" G. W. Scoggin, Onashita Seminary,

" Jesse Hartwell, D. D., Camden,

" L. Baldwin, Camden,
" R. M. Thrasher, Tulip.

All of which is respectfully submitted.
R. M. THRASHER, Ch'm'n.

REPORT NO. 2.

Your Executive Committee report as follows:

On the adjournment of the last session of the Convention, the President called a meeting of the Executive Committee, and they agreed to employ an agent, for the year, to lay the several claims of the Convention, before the Denomination, and people generally throughout the Southern portion of the State. The Agent employed was Eld. T. H. Compeer; we agreed to give him the sum of five hundred dollars for the year's service, or at the rate of that for what time he might serve, provided he collected that amount, but in no case to look to the Convention for a single dollar more than he collected. The Committee held no other meeting until Saturday before the first Sabbath in June, at which time it met with New Hope Church, Dallas county, when they received a request from Eld. J. V. McColluch, former Missionary, to pay him the balance voted him by the last Convention out of Eld. H. H. Coleman's subscription, which request was granted. The Committee held no other meeting up to 6th inst. At this time the Agent reports as follows: time in service, ten months; distance traveled 2,288 miles; visits to families, 200; sermons preached, 104; Baptised 7; assisted in the Ordination of one Deacon; amount collected, \$410 00 cts. We regret that we have nothing more of interest to report. We had no funds in hand to justify us in employing Missionaries, hence we employed none, as we determined not to bring the Conven-

tion in debt. All of which is respectfully submitted.

R. M. THRASHER, Pres.

AARON YATES, Sec'y.

REPORT NO. 3.

Your Committee on Finance report as follows:

In hands of Treasurer,.....	\$ 11,00
Received by Eld. T. H. Compeer, Agent,.....	418,65
Public collection on Sabbath,.....	8,30
New Hope Church,.....	3,00
Princeton,.....	2,00
Private Contribution, on Tuesday,....	8,75
	<hr/> \$449,71

CREDIT.

Amount paid Agent,.....	416,16
	<hr/> \$ 33,05

WM. DANIEL, Chairman.

TREASURER'S REPORT.

Your Treasurer reports the following:	
Oct. 6th, 1855. Funds on hand,.....	\$105,10
Received of R. W. Dickinson,.....	1,50
" " E. M. Harris,.....	10,00
	<hr/> \$116,60

CREDITS.

Oct. 18th, 1855. Paid R. J. Coleman for printing and distributing Minutes and services,.....	\$ 50,00
Oct. 18th, 1855. Paid J. W. McCulluch, Missionary,.....	40,00
Oct. 18th, 1855. Paid T. H. Compeer, Missionary,.....	16 00
	<hr/> \$106,00
Balance on hand,.....	\$ 10,60
Received of Finance Committee,.....	23,05
	<hr/> \$ 33,65
Balance on hand,.....	\$ 33,65
	E. M. HARRIS, Treasurer

CONSTITUTION

OF THE

Arkansas Baptist State Convention.

ARTICLE I.—This body shall be styled the Arkansas Baptist State Convention.

ART. II.—The Convention shall be composed of delegates from Baptist Associations, Churches and individual contributors who are members of Baptist churches in good standing.

ART. III.—Associations shall be entitled to five, and churches to three delegates to the Convention.

ART. IV.—It is distinctly understood, that this Convention shall have no ecclesiastical jurisdiction, nor even act as an advisory council, nor in any way interfere with the Constitution of any Church or Association.

ART. V.—The primary objects of this Convention shall be to supply the destitute regions within its bounds with the unadulterated word of life, and a living ministry, and to aid, by appropriate and Scriptural means, all destitute and indigent Churches, and also supply the community with such books as may be approved by this body, and as may be thought best calculated to communicate information as to the distinctive doctrines and ordinances of the Gospel of Christ, as received by our denomination. The Convention may, whenever consistent with the condition of the Treasury, adopt means for the advancement of Education, and also for the cause of Foreign Missions.

ART. VI.—The Convention shall, at its annual meetings, elect a President and Recording Secretary, who shall perform the duties usually assigned to such officers during its session.

ART. VII.—The Convention shall, annually, elect a President, two Vice-Presidents, Corresponding Secretary, Treasurer and ten or more Managers, who, together, shall compose the Executive Committee; five of whom shall constitute a quorum. The Executive Committee shall transact all business during the recess of the Convention, and disburse the funds; shall fill all vacancies in its own body, and submit a report of their proceedings at each annual meeting. Each member of the Executive Committee shall be, ex-officio, a member of the Convention.

ART. VIII.—The Annual Session of this Convention shall commence on

Saturday before the first Sabbath in October of each year.

ART. IX.—This Constitution may be amended at any annual meeting of the Convention, two-thirds of the members present concurring therein, except the fourth article, which is forever to remain untouched.

AGENT'S REPORT.

TO THE EXECUTIVE BOARD:—*Dear Brethren:* My time for the last Conventional year, has been spent in behalf of the Convention to the best of my ability, excepting two months last winter. I have had difficulties to contend with which no other agent had, many of the Associations have undertaken to carry out Domestic Missions in their own bounds. I have made everything of my own bow to the interest of the Convention, and yet I have been able to do but little. It would be useless for me to state the opposition that I have met with. That may rest with my opposers.

I have been engaged ten months—rode 2288 miles; visited 200 families; preached 104 sermons; Baptised seven persons; assisted in the Ordination of one Deacon; collected and received subscriptions as follows:

<i>New Hope Church.</i>	Bro'l forward, \$39.40
Public Collec'n, \$ 2.85	A. Matthews, 1.00
W. Newton, 25	James Melton, 1.00
J. Cornelius, 25	Wm Dunn, 50
W. O. Welch, 25	J. D. Sims, 50
A. B. Caruthers, 5.00	Mrs. M. Sims, 1.50
W. C. Randle, 10.00	Mrs. E. Livingston, 1.50
Mrs. Randle, 10.00	Col J. B. Anderson, 5.00
	T. Goodwin, 5.00
<i>Bethany Church.</i>	
Public Collec'n, 65	<i>Rehobath Church.</i>
James Akin, 25	Dr. O. Lamar, 10.00
P. Sterdivant, 25	Mrs. L. H. Goodwin, 2.00
James A. Brown, 25	Thomas Marable, 1.00
<i>Salem Church.</i>	S. Harrel, 50
J. Orist, 2.00	S. Mathews, 3.50
Mr. Wilson, 50	
J. B. Hawkins, 5.00	<i>Ht. Zion.</i>
<i>Camp Creek Church.</i>	Public collect'n, 8.50
Public Collec'n, 1.95	M. B. Johnson, 1.00
	\$70.40
	\$80.70

Bro't forward, \$20.80	Bro't forward, \$142.45	Bro't forward, \$182.15	Bro't forward, \$291.65
County Line Church.	Unknown, 25	Mrs. C. Drake, 50	Mrs. E. Scroggins, 50
Public collect'n, 3.00	A. B. Clements, 1.00	Miss J. Drake, 50	Square Church.
<i>Mt. Bethel Church.</i>	<i>Pleasant Grove Church.</i>	Miss M. Pelt, 50	Public Collection, 6.50
Public collect'n, 2.45	A. C. Jackson, 25	Mrs. R. Drake, 25	<i>Union Church.</i>
Mrs. R. Brown, 50	A. B. Holoman, 25	Mrs. O. Blakeley, 50	W. B. Summers, 2.00
Mrs. Carter, 50	D. Walker, 25	Miss M. C. McColluch, 25	W. L. Foster, 2.00
Mrs. Townsend, 50	J. Martin, 25	Miss E. Bryant, 25	<i>Princeton Church.</i>
Mrs. J. Langley, 50	E. Moseley, 6.00	Miss M. Brown, 25	Public collection, 3.15
Mr. Moffett, 25	R. Morgan, 50	A. S. Jackson, 25	G. W. Taylor, 5.00
B. Ofow, 50	Seth Morgan, 50	L. R. Hazzard, 25	P. Watts, 1.00
Mrs. E. K. Smith, 50	Mrs. N. Howard, 25	J. D. Callacott, 50	R. K. Dawson, 1.00
Servant Tamer, 50	G. B. Moseley, 50	D. Cook, 25	Dr. P. H. Thomas, 1.00
<i>Arkadelphia Church.</i>	E. Livingston, 8.25	El. J. McColluch, 1.00	James Ketchum, 1.00
Public collect'n, 1.50	J. W. Hill, 5.50	H. Muse, 50	J. H. Brown, 1.00
Thos. A. Heard, 5.00	H. W. Green, 50	P. H. Burd, 25	F. W. Fowler, 50
Radford McCargo, 10.00	Thomas Carter, 50	<i>Red River Church.</i>	Mrs. Jane Felzer, 50
Ed. Lockwood, 5.00	W. J. Carter, 25	Public collect'n, 1.10	D. G. Stokes, 1.00
J. M. Gilkey, 5.00	<i>Berk Creek Church.</i>	John Adkinson, 2.50	<i>New Hope Church.</i>
W. K. Crawley, 1.00	Public collect'n, 1.75	<i>Dorchester Church.</i>	Public collection, 1.75
J. O. McMillon, 1.00	Wm. Brown, old subscription, 2.50	W. H. Kay, Elmo	Joel Dickenson, 25
Wm. Jarman, 1.00	<i>Antioch Church.</i>	Missions, 50	W. L. Rucka, 1.00
Miss E. A. Webb, 50	J. G. Howe, 25	J. B. Anderson, 50	Wm. Daniel, 9.00
Mrs. C. E. Marbury, 25	C. C. Jackson, 50	James Hunter, 1.00	J. J. Outlin, 25
Mrs. M. Heard, 2.00	B. M. Carter, 50	J. M. Parker, 1.00	Mrs. M. Williams, 1.00
Mim M. Spence, 50	N. W. Pitman, 25	J. Belger, 50	A. S. Russell, 50
W. A. Calloway, 2.00	E. Nicols, 25	W. P. Furgerson, 50	<i>Friendship Church,</i>
E. G. Thomas, 2.00	E. Nicols, 25	W. H. Lee, 1.00	<i>Hampton.</i>
Mrs. M. Gilkey, 1.00	J. C. Calhoun, 25	H. J. Stamp, 1.00	Public collection, 10.25
Mrs. H. Kingsbury, 1.00	John Nicols, 50	T. R. Smith, 5.00	A. H. Means, 1.00
Mrs. H. Spence, 50	J. H. Moseley, 25	<i>Antioch Church.</i>	Miss P. Means, 25
Mrs. M. Edwards, 1.00	<i>Brittish Church.</i>	Public collect'n, 5.75	Miss H. Means, 25
J. A. Hardage, 1.00	E. J. Doyland, 1.00	J. R. Smith, 1.00	E. Bradford, 1.00
W. E. McMillon, 50	W. Bear, 50	S. R. Bell, 95	J. H. Means, 50
K. Spencer, 50	J. O. Browning, 50	H. L. Dedronett, 50	M. Johnston, 50
<i>Miss Creek Church.</i>	J. W. T. Gill, 1.00	K. C. Paakel, 1.00	<i>Donation by Eld.</i>
L. T. Burge, 50	Dr. S. Williams, 1.00	J. Bazel, 25	T. H. Compeer, 136.91
P. M. Thomas, 50	<i>Maudenia Church.</i>	James Mason, 50	Agent,
R. W. Dillard, 50	Public collect'n, 4.00	<i>Eldorado Church.</i>	<i>Omission of two Names.</i>
E. J. Ward, 50	Mrs. C. Halligh, 50	Public collect'n, 14.45	G. L. Boulard, 50
W. Bohanas, 50	Mrs. E. Pagne, 50	T. A. H. Eledge, 2.00	Mrs. Williams, 1.00
Mrs. M. Lottis, 2.50	Miss F. McColluch, 95	Mrs. E. Tatum, 1.00	
Mrs. M. Coulter, 2.50	Mrs. C. Pelt, 50	Mrs. Mulleyson, 1.00	
Mrs. A. Clements, 50			
P. R. Smith, 1.50			
\$142.45	\$182.15	\$291.65	\$117.31

Visited the Judson Association, Liberty Association, both of which appointed delegates; visited Red River Association, nothing done. Besides these Associations and Churches above mentioned, I visited many other Churches, which did nothing. Also I visited many destitute neighborhoods, and performed much Missionary labor; I attended many good meetings in these destitute neighborhoods, and it

was encouraging to see how the poor people listened to the preaching of the Gospel.

Many will rise up in the day of Judgment and bless this Convention for sending them the Word of Life.

THOMAS H. COMPEER, Agt.

*The Agent lacked that amount of collecting his Salary, and donated it to the Convention.

SECRETARY,